

California Tahoe Conservancy  
Agenda Item 5  
September 17, 2015

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**A. Budget**

**Fiscal Year 2015/16:** In June 2015, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, the 2015 Budget Act. It contains funding for the Conservancy as follows:

- \$22,466,000 for capital outlay and local assistance to fund the California Tahoe Conservancy's various programmatic priorities and support the Environmental Improvement Program for the Lake Tahoe Basin, including:
  - \$1,021,000 in special funds dedicated to the Conservancy;
  - \$3,695,000 in remaining Proposition 12/40/50/84 bond funds;
  - \$13,950,000 from the Conservancy's allocation under recently approved Proposition 1;
  - \$300,000 pursuant to Senate Bill 630 (SB630); and
  - \$3,500,000 in reimbursement authority for the acceptance and use of federal grants.
- \$5,786,000 and 39.0 personnel years (PY) for ongoing support, including continuing "baseline" funding from various special funds and revenue sources dedicated to the Conservancy. This total includes 1) the addition of \$200,000 in Proposition 1 "program delivery" support funds; and 2) a one-time reduction in Environmental License Plate Funds (ELPF) due to revenue shortfalls. In addition, the Conservancy will have authority to access up to another \$476,000 in capital outlay funds for staff activities directly related to the implementation of capital outlay projects.

Following release of the proposed FY2015/16 budget, staff was informed by the California Natural Resources Agency that, due to ongoing revenue shortfalls, the Conservancy would have an additional ELPF savings target of \$150,000 in 1015/16 support expenditures. Staff is identifying appropriate steps to deal with this reduction.

**Fiscal Year 2016/17:** Earlier this month staff submitted proposals for the 2016/17 budget to the California Natural Resources Agency and Department of Finance. The proposed 2016-17 fiscal year budget includes:

- \$23,657,000 for capital outlay and local assistance to fund the California Tahoe Conservancy's various programmatic priorities and support the Environmental Improvement Program for the Lake Tahoe Basin, including:
  - \$7,847,000 for capital outlay purposes from various bonds, special funds, grants and reimbursements dedicated to the Conservancy;
  - \$15,810,000 for local assistance from Proposition 1 bond funds.
- \$6,070,000 and 40.0 personnel years (PY) for ongoing support, including:
  - continuing "baseline" funding from various special funds and revenue sources dedicated to the Conservancy;
  - restoration of the 2015/16 ELPF \$100,000 reduction; and
  - the addition of \$184,000 in "program delivery" funds related to bond-funded capital outlay and local assistance requests.

The Conservancy would again have authority to access up to an additional \$476,000 in capital outlay funds for staff activities directly related to the implementation of capital outlay projects.

## **B. Legislation**

Assembly Bill 1004 was introduced on February 26, 2015 by Assembly Member Brian Dahle and the Conservancy Board authorized sponsorship of the legislation at its April 30, 2015 Board meeting. This legislation updates the Conservancy's existing authority under Geovernment Code Section 66907.8 to to sell, lease, transfer, or exchange land pursuant to its mission and consistent with new statewide planning priorities such as sustainable communities strategies. The bill was adopted by the Legislature with unanimous support and was signed by the Governor on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015. The Legislation will take effect on January 1, 2016.

## **C. Highlights**

**Tribal Consultation Policy:** On September 19, 2011, the Governor issued Executive Order B-10-11, which provides, among other things, that it is the policy of the administration that every state agency and department subject to executive control to implement effective government-to-government consultation with California Indian Tribes. To comply with Executive Order B-10-11, the Conservancy will be adopting the Natural Resources Agency's Tribal Consultation Policy in the coming months. The goal of the policy is to engage in the timely and

active process of respectfully seeking, discussing, and considering the views of California Indian Tribes in an effort to resolve concerns and encourage meaningful communications. The Conservancy will designate a tribal liaison to serve as the central point of contact for Indian tribes, develop ongoing and regular communication with tribal representatives, and ensure that the outreach and communications efforts are undertaken in a manner consistent with the policy.

**Tahoe Yellow Cress Conservation:** Conservancy staff engage in various efforts for the protection and conservation of Tahoe yellow cress (TYC), a California endangered plant species that only grows on the beaches of Lake Tahoe. The TYC Adaptive Management Working Group, comprised of various involved agencies and stakeholders, implements and coordinates a conservation strategy for the plant per the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Conservancy staff assisted in the development of the 2013 TYC MOU when the original 2002 TYC MOU expired after its 10 year term. The new MOU includes processes for making changes or modifications to the MOU and the Conservation Strategy, adding new members to the group, surveying methods and timing, and voting and consensus-building procedures that encourage active participation.

The working group has most recently collaborated on an updated Conservation Strategy (CS) which will guide management over the next decade. This updated CS will also inform the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for their upcoming decision related to potential federal listing of the species. The Upper Truckee Marsh is home to the Lake's largest TYC population, which has been thriving in recent years due to low lake levels and the Conservancy-managed TYC enclosure.

**Proposition 1 Grants Program:** On July 21, 2015, the Conservancy issued its Proposition 1 grant program solicitation. Workshops held on the north and south shores provided attendees with information about how to apply for a grant. Both new and traditional grantees attended the workshops, and staff has made themselves available to potential applications for pre-application consultations. for the first round of up to \$14 million in multi-benefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects.

This funding highlights the importance of meeting the State's California Water Action Plan which identifies Lake Tahoe as a California Natural Resources Agency priority, including implementation of the Lake Tahoe Environmental Improvement Program. Tahoe Basin-specific funding through the Conservancy will support high priority, multi-benefit Environmental Improvement Program efforts across five Focus Areas: Stormwater Quality, Ecosystem and Watershed

Management, Aquatic Invasive Species, Forest Health, and/or Sustainable Communities projects.

The Conservancy is supporting four types of grants including Planning, Implementation, Acquisition, and Monitoring for Multi-benefit Stormwater Quality, Ecosystem and Watershed Management, Aquatic Invasive Species, Forest Health, and/or Sustainable Communities projects. Public agencies, including cities, counties, special districts, joint powers authorities, state agencies or departments have been invited to apply by October 9, 2015. Visit [www.tahoe.ca.gov](http://www.tahoe.ca.gov) for more grant program information and application forms.

**Forest Health Landscape Planning:** Forest Health Landscape Planning emphasizes continued cooperative fuels treatment strategies to achieve ecological benefits through the implementation of a Lake Tahoe Basin Multi-Jurisdictional Fuel Reduction and Wildfire Prevention Strategy with a wide variety of basin partners. The strategy supports the reduction of forest fuels in order to sustain resilient forest landscapes and create fire-adapted communities throughout the Lake Tahoe Basin. The development of this strategy also better integrates the National Fire Plan and Cohesive Strategy at all levels in the Lake Tahoe Basin.

The Conservancy as one of the principal public land owners/managers in the Tahoe Basin is actively seeking new and improved methods of identifying concerns on parcels under its ownership or administration, and recommending and implementing actions that remedy those concerns. In addition the Conservancy is actively identifying possible funding sources to be used to implement projects and improve programmatic efficiency. The primary goals of the Tahoe Basin's forest fuels strategy which have already been integrated into the Conservancy's urban land management and forestry programs are to: (1) Restore and maintain fire-resilient landscapes; (2) Create fire-adapted communities; and (3) Provide effective and efficient wildfire response.

**Tahoe Sustainable Communities:** The 2012 Regional Plan Update promotes clustering development in the Basin's town centers to create more walkable, bikeable, and transit-oriented communities. The Regional Plan also includes a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), as required by California state legislation known as SB 375, which links the Basin's land use and transportation strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help revitalize the Basin's urban centers. The Conservancy's recent amendment to its statutory authority to sell, lease or exchange land consistent with Proposition 1, statewide planning priorities and sustainable communities recognizes this realignment.

To accelerate implementation of Lake Tahoe's SCS and the goals of SB 375, the Conservancy is developing a Tahoe Livable Communities Strategy through the Conservancy's land acquisition and marketable right programs to: 1) acquire and restore aging developed properties on environmentally sensitive lands and retire or transfer the development rights to town centers; 2) sell, lease, or exchange vacant Conservancy land in these town centers; and 3) acquire the remaining private properties in several of Lake Tahoe's roadless subdivisions to remove the threat of development.

In addition to achieving GHG reductions, the environmental benefits include improvements in water quality, water conservation and energy efficiency associated with redevelopment of the Basin's outdated commercial infrastructure, and restoration of environmentally sensitive lands in targeted areas. In particular, the restoration of these acquired parcels would protect valuable stream environment zones, fish and wildlife habitat and improve Lake Tahoe's famed clarity.

For a more detailed information please refer to the December 12, 2013 staff report (Agenda Item 9a).

**Regional Plan Update:** In response to the recent Regional Plan Update staff is working on changes to several program areas which may be presented to the board in the near term. Specifically, the Conservancy's land bank and marketable rights program may have more flexibility to use Excess Coverage Mitigation (ECM) fees across Hydrologic Area Boundaries. Although the TRPA fee structure remains the same under the Regional Plan Update, proposed incentives on the transfer Residential Development Rights from sensitive land to town centers; (e.g. 1:3 ratio for transfers from SEZ), could jump start Conservancy purchase of outdated, substandard development in sensitive areas (e.g. 50 year old motels in SEZ).

The TRPA incentives to transfer coverage from sensitive lands into community plan areas and centers - ratio as low as 1:1 versus current 1.5:1 ratio, could also stimulate market demand for restored SEZ coverage from the Conservancy's land bank. Finally, land use classification on select Conservancy and Forest Service lands changes from Residential to Conservation under certain scenarios. The latter will have negligible impact day-to-day management of lands acquired under the Conservancy's environmentally sensitive lands program for the protection of the natural environment.

In the recreation area, public use bicycle and pedestrian trails are now exempt from land coverage requirements if situated on high capability land (class 4 – 7).

This will have a positive impact to Conservancy and other agencies that fund and implementing new bicycle trails. Finally, some existing improved recreational properties such as the Conservancy's Van Sickle Park property receive land use classification changes from conservation to recreation which is a positive change in terms of the Conservancy's desire to transfer management responsibility to California Department of Parks and Recreation for coordinated operation with Nevada State Parks.

With regard to land coverage including coverage allocated to the Conservancy's land bank, the Regional Plan update contains changes that potentially require modifications to the long-standing MOU between the Conservancy and TRPA for the operation of the Tahoe Conservancy Land Bank. Specifically based on the update, the Conservancy may be in a position to propose modification to the MOU for board consideration as early as December 2015. These modifications would update the process for determining environmental benefit from restoration projects implemented with excess coverage mitigation fees to eliminate the "square foot" per dollar collected (currently 1 SF : \$8.50). The implication of this is the potential to provide seed funding of about \$1.0 million (from ECM funds) towards a new program to acquire older commercial/tourist commercial properties situated within SEZ.

**Land Bank Cummulative Totals  
Projects Facilitated 1988 through March 2015**

<b>Land Coverage Related</b>	<b>Number of Projects Served</b>	<b>Rights Provided (Sq. ft.)</b>	<b>Revenues (\$)</b>
<b>Sub Totals</b>	7,103	2,549,184	\$14,437,497
<b>Other Marketable Rights</b>	<b>Number of Projects</b>	<b>Rights Provided (Sq. ft.)</b>	<b>Revenues (\$)</b>
Commercial Floor Area	8	8,151	278,912
Tourist Units	2	-	30,300
Sewer Units	12	-	77,925
Residential Development Rights	81	-	323,650
Existing Residential Units	7	-	310,300
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7,213 Projects</b>	<b>Coverage: 2,549,184 sq. ft. CFA: 8,151 sq. ft.</b>	<b>\$15,458,584</b>

**D. Major Conservancy Projects Recently Completed or In Progress, El Dorado County**

**1. Public Access and Recreation**

These projects enhance regional public access and recreation.



Sawmill II Bike Trail

**Sawmill II Bike Trail and Erosion Control Project:**

- Location: Phase 2A: Lake Tahoe Blvd. to Echo View Drive, Phase 2B: Echo View Drive to U.S. Highway 50
- Description: Class 1 trail connecting Lake Tahoe Blvd. to existing phases of Sawmill Bike Trail to Meyers, and erosion control spot treatments
- Conservancy Funding: \$821,000 planning (Bike trail and erosion control); \$350,000 construction (2B bike trail construction); \$85,000 acquisition (2B bike trail easement acquisitions)
- Total Project Cost: \$2,750,000
- Schedule:
  - 2011 Phase 2A and Echo View Erosion Control constructed
  - 2014 Phase 2B erosion control improvements constructed
  - 2015 Anticipated completion of bike trail (2B)
- Lead Agency: El Dorado County
- Partners: Conservancy, TRPA, USFS, Caltrans
- Staff Contact: Mark Sedlock

## 2. Soil Erosion Control

These projects capture and treat stormwater from public rights-of-way (ROWs), address sediment sources, and improve water quality by reducing the amount of sediment and nutrients delivered to Lake Tahoe.



Sawmill II Erosion Control, completed initial phase

### **Lake Tahoe Boulevard Enhancement (Erosion Control):**

El Dorado County's erosion control and Class 2 bike lanes.

- Location: From Sawmill Rd. to Boulder Mountain Rd. along Lake Tahoe Boulevard (LTB)
- Description: Erosion control improvements along LTB, Class 2 bike lanes from Sawmill Rd. to Boulder Mountain Rd. along LTB connecting to existing Class 2 lanes
- Conservancy Funding: \$355,000 planning, \$211,613 erosion control construction
- Total Project Cost: \$400,000 (for Bike lanes, SEZ Enhancement and Erosion Control)
- Schedule:
  - 2015 Construction
- Lead Agency: El Dorado County
- Partners: Conservancy, USFS, TRPA, Caltrans
- Staff Contact: Mark Sedlock

### **Sawmill II Erosion Control:**

- See above section



### 3. Natural Resources

These projects restore natural river processes, enhance stream environment zones, improve wildlife habitat and fisheries and improve water quality.



Sunset Stables Reach 5 Construction 2013

#### **Upper Truckee River Sunset Stables Reach:**

USFS restoration crews completed the second year of construction in 2014. After a year of irrigation to support plant establishment in 2015, the project will be completed in 2016. In preparation for the dewatering and filling of the existing channel in 2016, USFS Staff is beginning the relocation of Western Pearlshell mussels this summer from the existing Reach 5 channel into other portions of the Upper Truckee River, including Reach 6, as well as other streams.

Location: between Meyers and South Lake Tahoe

- Description: 254 acres, Reach 5: 7,500 feet of channel construction, Reach 6 is on hold
- Conservancy Funding: \$2,479,728 planning; \$0 construction
- Total Project Cost: Reach 5 final design and construction - \$5,510,000
- Schedule:
  - 2013: 3,000 feet of new channel constructed Reach 5
  - 2014: 3,000 feet of new channel construction and related utility line relocation, Reach 5
  - 2015: No active construction, new channel vegetation establishes and aquatic resource relocation conducted for approximately 70% of the western pearlshell mussels, Reach 5
  - 2016: 1,500 feet of new channel construction at tie-in points and river relocation into new channel, Reach 5
- Lead Agencies: USFS, Conservancy
- Partners: US Army Corps of Engineers (Reach 6)
- Staff Contact: Joe Pepi
- Project documents:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/lfbmu/UpperTruckeeRestoration>

**Upper Truckee River Golf Course Reach:**

Litigation continues to impact this project. The California Superior Court in Alameda County ruled that the project EIR was inadequate and must be recirculated. CADPR is appealing this decision.

- Location: between Meyers and South Lake Tahoe
- Description: restoration along UTR, includes Conservancy properties slated for transfer to California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)
- Conservancy Funding: \$500,000
- Total Project Cost: \$15,000,000
- Schedule:
  - 2012: project and some park unit boundary modifications approved
  - TBD due to on-going litigation
- Lead Agency: DPR
- Partners: Conservancy
- Staff Contact: Joe Pepi
- Project documents: <http://www.restoreuppertruckee.net/index.htm>

**Tahoe Pines Campground Restoration and Access Project:**

Staff has completed the preliminary plan stage and received Board authority to move this project forward to final design and construction at the July 2014 meeting. Staff is coordinating with Department of General Services and Department of Finance ~~California Public Works Board~~ staff in preparation for authorization by the California Public Works Board to proceed to working drawings. Staff will be applying for regulatory agency permits this year to allow for construction bid advertisement and project implementation in 2016.

- Location: confluence of Upper Truckee River and Echo Creek in Meyers
- Description: eight-acre site to restore SEZ and provide appropriate river-oriented access features
- Conservancy Funding: \$125,000 planning; \$650,000 construction
- Total Project Cost: \$975,000
- Schedule: 2016 construction
- California PWB approval anticipated in 2015
- Lead Agency: Conservancy
- Partners: Caltrans, BOR, DGS
- Staff Contact: Joe Pepi

#### **4. Forest Improvement**

The Forest Improvement Program projects are designed to improve habitat, reduce fire threat, and promote natural processes.



Staff works with the Lake Valley Fire Protection District (LVFPD) and the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District (MBFPD) to plan and implement the Conservancy's forestry activities in El Dorado County. In 2015, the Conservancy and partners will implement 80 acres of forest health/fuels reduction projects on Conservancy parcels in El Dorado County. These projects are coordinated through an annual Lake Tahoe Basin Fuels Reduction and Fire Prevention Incident Action Plan by the Tahoe Fuels and Fire Team.

## **E. Major Conservancy Projects Recently Completed or In Progress, Placer County**

### **1. Public Access and Recreation**

These projects enhance regional public access and recreation.



Homewood Bike Trail, existing conditions

#### **Homewood Bike Trail:**

No changes have been made to this project since the previous Board meeting. Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD) will implement this project following Caltrans' completion of the Highway 89 Water Quality Project in this area.

- Location: Along State Route 89 in Homewood
- Description: the missing one-mile segment in the west shore bike trail system
- Conservancy Funding: \$325,274 planning; \$500,000 construction
- Total Project Cost: \$1,557,970
- Schedule: 2015/2016 - begin construction
- Lead Agency: TCPUD
- Partners: Conservancy
- Staff Contact: Sue Rae Ireland
- Project documents: [http://tahoe.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/files/ITEM10a\\_HomewoodBikeTrail.pdf](http://tahoe.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/files/ITEM10a_HomewoodBikeTrail.pdf)

#### **Dollar Creek Shared-Use Trail:**

This trail is part of a basin-wide Federal Lands Access Program grant which TTD was awarded that provides funds for its construction.

- Location: Dollar Hill to the end of Fulton Crescent Drive
- Description: 2.2 mile connection extending TCPUD's bike trail network
- Conservancy Funding: \$435,000 planning; \$500,000 acquisition
- Total Project Cost: NA

- Schedule:
  - 2014 - NV Energy parcel acquisition completed.
  - 2016 – construction expected
- Lead Agency: Placer County
- Partners: Conservancy, North Lake Tahoe Resort Association, Tahoe Transportation District (TTD), North Tahoe Public Utility District (NTPUD)
- Staff Contact: Sue Rae Irelan
- Project documents:
  - <http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/Works/Projects/DollarCreekBikeTrail.aspx>

### **Kings Beach General Plan Revision and Pier Redevelopment:**

A update for this project will occur during the September Board meeting tour. In April 2015 the board authorized staff to expend \$525,000 for the purpose of planning and environmental documentation for a General Plan Revision at the Kings Beach State Recreation Area and environmental analysis and preliminary planning for a reconstructed Kings beach public pier. The board also authorized staff to accept \$25,000 from the North Lake Tahoe Resort Association for this project.

- Location: Kings Beach State Recreation Area, Kings Beach
- Description: Redevelop the existing pier with a combination fixed pier/floating pier design, optimize the location relative to onsite needs, and extend the length to reach the navigational target at the 6,217-foot contour line. Also revise the General Plan to provide the planning basis for a redeveloped pier and other recreational needs.
- Conservancy Funding: \$562,700 for feasibility study, preliminary planning, general plan development, and environmental review
- Total Project Cost: est. \$587,700 (general plan/preliminary planning/ environmental)
- Schedule:
  - 2015 – Complete work on the feasibility study and preliminary plans and initiate general plan and environmental review processes,
  - 2015-2017 – General Plan development, pier preliminary plan completion, environmental analysis
  - 2018-2019 – Final Design and Construction
- Lead Agency: CA Department of Parks and Recreation
- Partners: Conservancy, North Lake Tahoe Resort Association
- Staff Contact: Sue Rae Irelan
- Project Documents: Older feasibility reports are being updated.

## 2. Soil Erosion Control

These projects address sources of sediment and capture and treat stormwater runoff from public rights-of-way. The projects improve water quality by reducing the amount of sediment and nutrients delivered to Lake Tahoe.



Brockway Erosion Control Project

### **Brockway Erosion Control:**

All grants for this project were closed out in June 2015.

- Location: California side of the Brockway watershed, although the greater watershed also includes Nevada
- Description: SEZ restoration, paving of unpaved roads, and installment of conveyance infrastructure and new infiltration facilities to reduce the volume of co-mingled flows originating from the Stateline casino corridor and surrounding residential areas
- Conservancy Funding: \$670,000 planning, \$652,497 construction, \$683,940 acquisition
- Total Project Cost: \$4,044,200
- Schedule:
  - 2012 - Construction
  - 2013 - Revegetation
  - 2013/14 – Monitoring
  - 2015 – Final Basin will be brought into service
- Lead Agency: Placer County
- Partners: Conservancy, USFS, State of Nevada, TRPA, NTPUD, Boulder Bay LLC
- Staff Contact: ScottCecchi
- Project documents: [http://tahoe.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/files/ITEM7A\\_BrockwayECPSiteImprvmtGrantAugmt.pdf](http://tahoe.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/files/ITEM7A_BrockwayECPSiteImprvmtGrantAugmt.pdf)



## **Kings Beach Commercial Core and Watershed Improvement Projects:**

All Conservancy grants for these projects were closed out in June 2015. Placer County continues its substantial progress constructing this project. Summer activities have been focused in the neighborhood immediately adjacent to State Route 28. Along Golden Avenue construction of two new basins on Conservancy-owned land and land purchased with Conservancy acquisition funding were completed. Construction along State Route 28 will resume in the fall.

- Location: central Kings Beach
- Description: full streetscape improvements from Secline to Minnow, Class II bikeways from State Route 267 to Chipmunk, water quality improvements throughout the watershed
- Conservancy Funding: \$600,000 to plan the Commercial Core Improvement Project (CCIP) and \$1,123,000 for planning and acquisition grants for the Watershed Improvement Project (WIP)
- Total Project Cost: over \$45 million
- Schedule:
  - 2010 – Fox Clean Water Pipe completed
  - 2014 – Construction of the CCIP
  - 2015 – Completion of the CCIP, Coon Clean Water Outfall
- Lead Agency: Placer County
- Partners: Conservancy, Caltrans, TRPA, USFS, NTBA, NLTRA, DPR, HCD, FHWA, SWRCB
- Staff Contacts: Scott Cecchi, Lisa O'Daly
- Project documents: <http://www.kingsbeachcore.info/> ;  
<http://www.placer.ca.gov/~media/dpw/ProjectsKingsBeach/documents/KbEIRappB.ashx>

### 3. Natural Resources

These projects restore natural river processes, enhance stream environment zones, improve wildlife habitat and fisheries and improve water quality.



Lower Blackwood Creek, Fall 2013

#### **Lower Blackwood Creek Restoration:**

The Eagle Rock trails continue to be a favorite destination for Lake Tahoe visitors for their mountain and lake vistas. Post-project monitoring of the Lower Blackwood Creek Restoration project indicates very successful re-establishment of vegetation and visual sightings of fish populations, and the Project was named a TRPA Best in the Basin award winner.

- Location: west shore, five miles south of Tahoe City
- Description: enhanced water quality and aquatic and riparian habitat conditions along Blackwood Creek and the realignment of popular, but eroding, trails accessing Eagle Rock
- Conservancy Funding authorized: \$4,229,000
- US Army Corps of Engineers reimbursements: \$3,175,000
- Schedule:
  - 2011 – Construction of first phase of Eagle Rock trail
  - 2012 - Construction of stream improvements
  - 2013/2014 - Final site restoration, irrigation and plant establishment activities; monitoring; construction of second phase of Eagle Rock Trail
  - 2015 – Monitoring
- Lead Agency: Conservancy
- Partners: USACE, DGS, Tahoe Fund, California Conservation Corps
- Staff Contact: Stuart Roll
- Project documents: [http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc\\_projects/lower-blackwood-creek-restoration-69/](http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc_projects/lower-blackwood-creek-restoration-69/)



**Alpine Meadows Lease:**

Installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) resumed in July 2015 on the Sherwood Ski Lift access road which is located on Conservancy land. This work is scheduled to be completed by October 1, 2015. All funding required to complete this project have been allocated by Alpine Sierra Ventures, LLC..

- Location: Alpine Meadows Ski Resort
- Description: installation of BMPs in areas addressed by the lease between Alpine Meadows and the Conservancy
- Conservancy Funding: none
- Schedule:
  - 2012 - emergency repairs necessitated by a landslide
  - 2013 - Construction of first phase of road BMPs
  - 2014 - Monitoring of phase 1 road BMPs
  - 2015 - Construction of final phase of road BMPs
- Lead Agency: Alpine Sierra Ventures, LLC
- Partners: Conservancy
- Staff Contacts: Shawn Butler, Scott Cecchi

**4. Forest Improvement**

These projects improve habitat, reduce fire threat, and promote natural processes.



Property post treatment

Staff works with the North Tahoe Fire Protection District (NTFPD) to plan and implement the Conservancy's forestry activities in Placer County. In 2015, the Conservancy and partners will implement 50 acres of forest health/fuels reduction projects on Conservancy parcels in Placer County. These projects are coordinated through an annual Lake Tahoe Basin Fuels Reduction and Fire Prevention Incident Action Plan by TFFT.

In addition to the above, staff is actively seeking new sources of funding for forestry treatment. Specifically, staff is leading the basin's application preparation process for a Greenhouse Gas Fuels Reduction grant through the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE).

Depending upon the outcome of a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant proposal submitted by NTFPD in collaboration with the Conservancy, the agencies may implement the first year of urban lot fuel treatment of approximately 100 acres in 2016.

## **F. Major Conservancy Projects Recently Completed or In Progress, City of South Lake Tahoe**

### **1. Public Access and Recreation**

These projects enhance regional public access and recreation.



Alta Mira, June 2009



Lakeview Lookout (Alta Mira), August 2015

### **Alta Mira Acquisition and Planning:**

A update for this project will occur at the September Board meeting. This is the bookend property for the Lakeview Commons at El Dorado Beach project that will expand public access, provide storm water treatment, extend the bike path and incrementally improve the scenic quality of this stretch of U.S. Highway 50 and the shoreline of Lake Tahoe.

- Location: 3339 Lake Tahoe Boulevard, City of South Lake Tahoe
- Description: This 0.55 acres added an additional 190 linearfeet to the 2,050 linear feet of public lake access at El Dorado Beach.

- Funding:
  - Acquisition: \$2,150,000 (Conservancy), \$500,000 (State Lands Commission)
  - Planning and design to date: \$68,860 (DGS Landscape Architecture retainer for Alta Mira and Fremont Overlook conceptual designs)
  - Construction estimate: TBD
- Funding partners: Conservancy/State Lands Commission
- Lead Agency: California Tahoe Conservancy
- Staff Contact: Scott Cecchi

### **El Dorado Beach to Ski Run Boulevard Bike Trail and Lake Access Enhancement:**

The City continues to acquire the easements needed for project implementation. Easements have been granted over three Conservancy properties. Portions of the trail are located within the U.S. 50 right-of-way.

- Location: South Lake Tahoe along U.S. Highway 50
- Description: A three-quarter mile segment that will bridge the trail gap between El Dorado Beach to Ski Run Boulevard
- Conservancy Funding: \$645,000 planning
- Total Project Cost: \$2,000,000
- Schedule:
  - 2016: Anticipated construction upon completion of easement acquisition
- Lead Agency: City of South Lake Tahoe
- Partners: Conservancy, Caltrans
- Staff Contact: Lisa O'Daly

### **South Tahoe Greenway Shared Use Trail:**

Construction began on the Greenway this summer with completion of a 0.43 mile connection between Herbert Avenue and Glenwood Avenue.

In May, 2014, the Board authorized staff to apply for a 2014 Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant to fund the next construction phases. That application was unsuccessful and staff reapplied with an expanded partnership in the 2015 ATP cycle. Partnership collaboration for the 2015 application includes the Lake Tahoe Community College (LTCC) Tahoe

Transportation District (TTD), and City of South Lake Tahoe (CSLT). Recommendations for grant award are scheduled to be announced September 15, 2015. The project includes the following elements:

- Location: between the Sierra Tract neighborhood and Van Sickle Bi-State Park
- Description: 3.86-mile trail to provide the backbone of the bicycle network in the core of South Lake Tahoe; initial construction of Phase 1a, Glenwood Way to Herbert Ave., is 0.47 miles
- Conservancy Funding authorized: preliminary planning - \$585,060; Phase 1a final design and construction - \$881,000; final design and construction for Phase 1b and 2 - \$1,100,000.
- Total Project Cost: estimated \$12-15 million to complete
- Schedule:
  - 2015 – Phase 1a construction completed, August 2015.
  - 2015 -- New ATP grant request
  - 2016 – Final design of next construction phase, if new ATP grant is successful
  - 2018/2019 – Potential construction of ATP funded project
- Lead Agency: Conservancy
- Partners: LTCC, USFS, CSLT
- Staff Contact: Sue Rae Irelan, Scott Cecchi
- Project documents: [http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc\\_projects/south-tahoe-greenway-79/](http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc_projects/south-tahoe-greenway-79/)

## 2. Soil Erosion Control

These projects improve water quality by addressing sources of sediment and stormwater runoff from public rights-of-way (ROWs) and by reducing the amount of sediment and nutrients delivered to Lake Tahoe.



Sierra Tract stormwater runoff (pre-project)

**Sierra Tract Erosion Control:**

The City advertised for construction bids in March of this year. Bids were received, however all bids were rejected and the City re-advertised the project in May as a rescheduled two construction season project. The construction contract was awarded in June and work began in July 2015, with construction scheduled for completion by summer 2016.

- Location: Sierra Tract neighborhood in South Lake Tahoe
- Description: address stormwater runoff pollutants that discharge directly into the Upper Truckee River using improvements such as infiltration galleries
- Conservancy Funding: \$4,929,497 (all phases)
- Total Project Cost: estimated \$3 million to complete
- Schedule:
  - 2000-2013 - Phase 1A, 1B, and Phase 2 completed
  - 2014 - Grants funded for Phase 3/4, Final design
  - 2015 - Anticipated construction of Phase 3/4
- Lead Agency: City of South Lake Tahoe
- Partners: Conservancy, SWRCB, USFS
- Staff Contact: Joe Pepi
- Project documents: [www.cityofslt.us/documentcenter/view/3204](http://www.cityofslt.us/documentcenter/view/3204)

**3. Natural Resources**

These projects restore natural river processes, enhance stream environment zones, improve wildlife habitat and fisheries and improve water quality.



Cove East in winter

**Upper Truckee Marsh Restoration:**

Staff is coordinating development of the Final EIR/EIS/EIS, and anticipates bringing the final document before the board for recommended certification in late 2015. Staff and contractors continue comprehensive monitoring of water in the Marsh thanks to partnerships with the State Water Resources Control Board and the United States Geological Survey.

- Location: mouth of the Upper Truckee River on the south end of Lake Tahoe primarily on Conservancy-owned lands

- Description: 600 acre river and marsh restoration project, including the Lower West Side Project
- Conservancy Funding authorized to date: \$3,700,000 planning; \$10,500,000 construction (Phase 1)
- Total Project Cost: estimated \$7 – 17 million additional to complete the project depending on final alternative
- Schedule:
  - 2001/2002 – Lower West Side project constructed
  - 2013 – Draft EIR/EIS/EIS released for public comment
  - 2014 – Preferred alternative presented to Board for discussion
  - 2015 – Anticipated Final EIR/EIS/EIS certification
- Lead Agency: Conservancy
- Partners: DGS, BOR, TRPA, SWRCB
- Staff Contact: Scott Carroll
- Project documents: [http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc\\_projects/upper-truckee-marsh-69/](http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc_projects/upper-truckee-marsh-69/)

#### 4. Forest Improvement

The Forest Improvement Program projects are designed to improve habitat, reduce fire threat, and promote natural processes.



California Conservation Corps  
Crews help fall a tree.

The Forest Improvement Program focuses on restoring forested habitats on Conservancy-owned property. Staff worked with the City of South Lake Tahoe Fire Department (SLTFD) and the Lake Valley Fire Protection District (LVFPD) to secure funding through the BLM Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act (SNPLMA) grants to plan and implement forest health/fuels reduction projects on 30 acres at the City of South Lake Tahoe (Airport) parcels. The implementation is anticipated to take two years.

These projects are coordinated through an annual Lake Tahoe Basin Fuels Reduction and Fire Prevention Incident Action Plan by TFFT.



## **G. Urban Land Management Program**



Eagle Rock film shoot by Loom

### **1. Special Use Requests:**

Pursuant to Board authority dated January 20, 2011, staff is authorized to enter into license agreements consisting of three years or less provided the Board is notified.

Staff is providing notice of a recently executed license below:

- a. Temporary-use (up to three days) license granted to the American Conservation Experience (ACE) executed on April 15, 2015. ACE will perform maintenance activities on Conservancy parcels within Van Sickle Bi-State Park in South Lake Tahoe, CA. Licensee will provide maintenance work as directed by Conservancy staff in-lieu of a monetary fee. Evidence of insurance listing the Conservancy as additional insured was provided.
- b. Short-term (four days) license granted to the Tahoe Institute for Natural Science (TINS) executed on July 20, 2015. TINS will focus on local nature areas and forest ecology education. The license fee for this activity is \$25.00. Evidence of insurance listing the Conservancy as additional insured was provided.
- c. Long-term (three years) license granted to El Dorado for the Lake Tahoe Boulevard Enhancement Erosion Control/Stream Environment Zone Project. The license fee and insurance requirements are satisfied.



Van Sickle Vista

## **2. Upper Truckee Marsh and Van Sickle Bi-State Park**

The seasonal Upper Truckee Marsh dog closure ended on July 31, 2015. The El Dorado County Sheriff's Office is currently under contract to enforce local ordinances on the marsh property, as well as at Van Sickle Bi-State Park (Van Sickle). Van Sickle closes for the season on October 31, 2015. More information about Van Sickle Bi-State Park is available at: [http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc\\_projects/van-sickle-bi-state-park-79/](http://tahoe.ca.gov/ctc_projects/van-sickle-bi-state-park-79/)